

## *Lactarius torminosus*



*Lactarius torminosus* © Pat Leonard

**Cap:** broadly convex, becoming centrally depressed; 40 – 100 mm diameter; glabrous centre, bearded outer 2/3rds; flesh pink to brick, faintly zonate; margin inrolled and bearded.

**Stipe:** cylindrical, stuffed or hollow in centre at maturity; 35 – 65 × 10 – 25 mm; dry, glabrous; pale pinkish buff to brick red.

**Gills:** broadly adnate to decurrent; moderately crowded, some forking near stipe; pale pinkish buff; lamellulae absent.

**Flesh:** white, unchanging.

**Smell:** acidic, fruity, like rhubarb.

**Taste:** lamellae and milk almost immediately very acrid.

**Milk:** white, unchanging on exposure to air, drying pallid cream.

**Chemical characters:** FeSO<sub>4</sub> on stipe; rapidly salmon pink; guaiac on stipe base: n.r.

**Spore print:** pale cream.

**Spores:** broadly ellipsoid to ellipsoid; 7.5 – 9.6 × 5.5 – 7 µm, average 8.4 ± 0.2 × 6.2 ± 0.2 µm; Q = 1.2 – 1.5, average Q = 1.33 ± 0.05; ornamented with amyloid warts and fine lines forming a partial reticulum; plage present, inamyloid.

**Basidia:** clavate; 40 – 60 × 9 – 10.5 µm, four spored.

**Cheilocystidia:** numerous, clavate or fusiform; 30 – 50 × 5 – 7.5 µm; with apices mucronate.

**Pleurocystidia:** clavate or fusiform; 50 – 70 × 6.5 – 10 µm; with mucronate apices.

**Pileipellis:** and ixocutis of densely interwoven hyphae 3 – 7 µm wide.

**Habitat:** occasional under *Betula* in parks and gardens in South Australia

**Notes:** readily recognizable by the combination of the pink to brick red cap, hairy margin, very acrid milk and its association with exotic birch trees.